[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS ON THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT: The result of the election held on the 25th November, 1922, in connection with the constitution of the standing Finance Committee has not yet been announced to the House. The following are the gentlemen elected from the non-official members of the Legislative Council:—

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai;
Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai; and
Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.

CONSTITUTION OF A UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT: During the last meeting of the Legislative Council, a resolution was moved by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai for the establishment of a University in Travancore. The Director of Public Instruction then stated that the question would be considered by a Committee to be appointed by the Government. The Government are accordingly proposing to appoint a Committee and the Government proceedings thereon are ready for issue. The non-official members of the Legislative Council, it is proposed, should be requested to elect four members to serve on this Committee. The President of the Committee will be Mr. Krishna Aiyangar, Deputy President of the Council. Mr. Hodgson will be a member of the Committee and Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar will be the Convener. It is also proposed to nominate two other gentlemen. Dr. Macphail has kindly consented to serve on the Committee and this Government has applied for the services of Dr. Mathai. But this Government has not yet heard from the Madras Government as to whether the services of Dr. Mathai will be spared. This will be the constitution. If Dr. Mathai cannot be had, then the Government will have to think of another gentleman to sit on the Committee. The non-official gentlemen of this Council will be requested to meet under the presidency of the Deputy President and elect four members for this Committee so that the result may be announced by Friday next and the G. O. may be issued with the names of these gentlemen in the next week's Gazette.

NOTICE OF BUSINESS.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Some of the members are not supplied with the necessary papers in connection with this Council. Clause (3) of the Standing Orders says:

"The Secretary shall, at least fourteen clear days before the date fixed for each session, send to every member a provisional list of legislative business to be brought forward at a meeting. After sending such a provisional list the Secretary shall send to every member a statement of the business to be transacted at such meeting so as to reach his permanent or Trivandrum address at least three clear days before the date of each session."

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Now we were not aware of the details of the business to be transacted at this session sufficiently early.

PRESIDENT: I think, Mr. Madhava Variar, that it is hardly a point of order arising now. If the Standing Orders are not adhered to, you may bring the matter to my notice either in writing or in chambers, and I will enquire into the matter.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

Demand X.—General Administration, Account Office.

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 360 under General Administration, Account Office. This is to provide for the pay of one Graduate Clerk on Rs. 40 and two undergraduate clerks on Rs. 25 each per mensem to be entertained in the Account Office temporarily for four months in connection with the preparation of the budget for 1099.

In explanation of this motion, I should like to say a few words about the budget work that is done in the Finance Department. The departmental budgets are preceded, first of all, by a statement, from each head of department, of the establishment that is entertained in his department. These statements are received in advance and they are scrutinised in detail with the audit registers maintained in the Account Office and the discrepancies found are settled in communication with the heads of departments. The departmental budgets are expected to be received by the end of Meenam, but they are often delayed and they continue to come up till the middle of Medam and sometimes even later. When they are received, the first thing that the Account Officer has to do is to prepare the revised estimate for the current year. For this purpose, the actuals of the three preceding years are taken and tabulated. The actuals of the first seven, eight, nine and ten months of the current year and the actuals of the last five, four, three and two months of the past year are then worked out under the various major, minor and detailed heads. These are tabulated and used in the preparation of the revised estimates for the several heads. The revised estimates first prepared have to be continually corrected with reference to later actuals available, so as to arrive at the most approximate figures for the receipts and expenditure of the current year. Next, the details of the budgets of the departments are scrutinised minutely. Every provision is gone through and detailed notes are written on them. The Budget notes are forwarded to the Government in the Administrative Department, where they are again scrutinised and orders are passed on the various proposals. They thus come back to the Account Office for consolidation into a single budget for the State. After that is done, the consolidated budget is sent to the press. When the proof pages come from the press, they have to be carefully corrected and the totals have to be checked. The last stage in the preparation is the drafting of the Memorandum which now accompanies the budget and the budget speech of the Financial Secretary when he presents the budget to the

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